

brave Poles have made heroic, and sometimes costly, stands for freedom. Their courage and resolve should remain an inspiration to us all.

Having triumphed over decades of communist rule, not with musket and bayonet, but with voices and votes, petitions and prayers, the people of a free and independent Poland are now working to complete the challenging transition to democracy and to a thriving, market-oriented economy. The United States is proud to cooperate in this effort through a wide range of trade, investment, and technical assistance programs, including the Polish-American Enterprise Fund.

Americans of Polish ancestry continue to play an important role in promoting stronger political, cultural, and economic ties between the United States and Poland, and as we join these citizens in remembering General Casimir Pulaski, we also give thanks for the contributions that they are making to our common future.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 11, 1992, as General Pulaski Memorial Day. I direct the appropriate government officials to display the flag of the United States on all government buildings on that day, and I invite all Americans to observe the occasion with appropriate programs and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and seventeenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6487 of October 8, 1992

Veterans Day, 1992

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

"The soldier, above all other people, prays for peace," said General Douglas MacArthur, "for he must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war." It is fitting that we pause on the anniversary of Armistice Day, a day dedicated to peace, to honor those Americans who answered our Nation's call to duty when the United States had no choice but to fight for the principles we cherish.

As we Americans go about our day-to-day activities, from a busy shift at work to a quiet evening with family and friends, we seldom think of the individuals who walked in the very shadow of death in order to preserve our way of life. Yet were it not for our veterans, who endured the terrifying scream of bombs and sirens and the haunting sight of bodies broken in battle, we might well not enjoy the liberty and security we share today—blessings we all too often take for granted. Our comfort has come at the cost of many a veteran's youth and health; our freedom, through the sacrifices of those who faced capture, imprisonment, and even torture, in the defense of freedom. From the victors of World War I and survivors of the infamous Bataan Death March to the

service members who returned from a hundred lesser-known trials during and since World War II, America's veterans have earned all of the respect and gratitude that we express on this occasion. These Americans do not seek glory, any more than they sought the hellish test of war; however, they do ask—rightly—that their great cause be honored and remembered.

While Veterans Day is dedicated to all those who have served in our country's uniform, including veterans of more recent conflicts in Southeast Asia, Panama, and the Persian Gulf, during this 50th anniversary of World War II we remember especially those who helped to defeat the expansionist aims of Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan. Before time deprives us of their living history forever, we do well to learn from these veterans and from their eyewitness accounts of the Allied struggle against tyranny and aggression. World War II veterans know firsthand of the importance of a strong, united America, and their lifelong patriotism should remain an inspiration for generations to come. While the events of a half-century ago may seem remote today, they in fact hold lessons of eternal value: the first of which is that our Nation is only as great as the character and convictions of her people; our freedom, only as certain as our moral and military capacity to preserve it.

Today many veterans are helping to maintain a strong America by supporting our present-day Armed Forces, by promoting civic education and patriotism among youth, and by helping them to recognize the difference between liberty and license, between just, democratic peace and the mere absence of war. By demonstrating the virtues of discipline, selflessness, and courage far beyond the field of battle, America's veterans continue to provide outstanding service to the cause of freedom.

On this occasion, let us offer a heartfelt salute to each and every U.S. veteran, especially those who are ill or hospitalized. Let us renew our pledge to obtain the fullest possible accounting for our POWs and MIAs and convey our respect to the brave families of those still missing. Finally, let us remember throughout the year that our freedom—and that of millions of people around the globe—would not be possible without our veterans' service and sacrifice.

In order that we may pay due tribute to those who have served in our Armed Forces, the Congress has provided (5 U.S.C. 6103(a)) that November 11 of each year shall be set aside as a legal public holiday to honor America's veterans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, November 11, 1992, as Veterans Day. I urge all Americans to honor our veterans through appropriate public ceremonies and private prayers. I also call on Federal, State and local government officials to display the flag of the United States and to encourage and participate in patriotic activities in their communities. I urge civic and fraternal organizations, churches, schools, businesses, unions, and the media to support this national observance with suitable programs and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-two,

and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and seventeenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6488 of October 9, 1992

In Celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the White House

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

The home of our Nation's Presidents is a house that truly belongs to the American people, and as we commemorate the 200th anniversary of the laying of the White House cornerstone, we also celebrate the great system of democratic government that this historic building symbolizes to our Nation and the world.

Although the White House cornerstone was dedicated on October 13, 1792, the story of the famous home at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue actually begins with the framing of our Constitution several years earlier. In Article 1, Section 8, of that great document, our Nation's Founders provided for the establishment of a special district to serve "as the Seat of the Government of the United States." Under the direction of President George Washington, a site was selected for the Federal City in January 1791, and the district eventually began to take shape according to the grand vision of Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant, who submitted his plans to the Congress in December of that year. In early 1792, the Commissioners for the District of Columbia advertised a nationwide competition for the design of the President's house. They chose the entry of Irish-born architect James Hoban, perhaps mindful of President Washington's recommendation that "for the President's house, I would design a building that should also look forward, but execute no more of it at present than might suit the circumstances of this country, when it shall be first wanted."

President Washington never inhabited the White House, but when it was occupied by President John Adams and his family in 1800, Abigail Adams wrote to her sister that the stately yet unfinished "castle of a house" appeared "built for ages to come." In its beauty and elegance, the White House looked forward with all the exuberance and optimism of our young Republic. At the same time, however, its simple balance of form and function reflected an unpretentious spirit befitting our system of limited government and representative democracy.

The White House underwent a number of changes and additions in succeeding years, with President Thomas Jefferson and architect Benjamin Henry Latrobe designing its terraces and interior, respectively. In 1814, the building was nearly destroyed by fire when British forces invaded the city of Washington, and today Dolley Madison's rescue of Gilbert Stuart's famous portrait of George Washington, along with her husband's papers, is a celebrated part of White House history and folklore. Sadly, the exterior sandstone walls and interior brickwork were all that remained of the White House when James Hoban was asked to begin its reconstruction. Not until the Presidency of Andrew Jackson